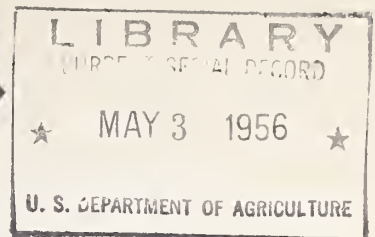


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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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# NEW LEGISLATION FOR COTTON PRODUCTION IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE

Revision of the basic legislation regulating cotton production and marketing in Angola and Mozambique, overseas territories supplying most of the cotton used by the Portuguese textile industry, was published November 24, 1955. The previous legislation had been in effect since August 1946. The new measures are designed to encourage increased production of cotton in the territories and provide for an increase in the price to be paid by cotton importers in Portugal.

Most of the cotton production in Angola and Mozambique is under control of local companies, or concessionaires, which distribute planting seed to the native farmers and purchase all seed cotton produced at prices fixed each year by the Government. The concessionaires provide for ginning, marketing, and export of cotton to Portugal, also at prices fixed by the Government. This measure insures a steady source of raw material for the Portuguese textile industry at stabilized prices which are considerably lower than prices on world cotton markets.

Prices to growers for the 1954-55 crop were fixed at 2\$70 escudos per kilo for First Grade seed cotton and 2\$00 for Second Grade, (equivalent to 4.29 and 3.18 U. S. cents per pound, respectively). Seed or unginmed cotton is classified by 2 grades only (clean or trashy).

Ginned cotton is classified in 6 grades. United States Good Middling 1-1/16-inch staple cotton, is reported to be roughly equivalent to Portuguese Grades 1 or 2. Fixed prices for the 1954-55 crop, delivered c.i.f. Portugal (Lisbon or Oporto) in equivalent U. S. cents per pound, were as follows:

Grade 1	25.88	Grade 4	21.59
Grade 2	25.08	Grade 5	19.21
Grade 3	23.26	Grade 6	17.62

The new legislation provides for purchase prices to be established annually, as in past years, and sets the 1956 price for Colonial cotton imported into Portugal at about 7 cents more than in 1955. The production quota for the 1955-56 crop is fixed at 193,000 bales (500 pounds gross). Cotton acreage and production in the Overseas Territories during the last 5 years are shown in the following table:



ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE: Cotton acreage and production  
by crop years, 1950-51 to 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Year beginning August 1	Angola		Mozambique		Total Production
	Area	Production	Area	Production	
	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
1950.....	110	23	700	131	154
1951.....	110	22	680	140	162
1952.....	130	29	700	185	214
1953.....	120	25	700	145	170
1954.....	150	30	710	125	155

Portugal's cotton consumption amounted to 214,000 bales in August-July 1954-55, as compared with 193,000 bales in 1953-54. Cotton imports in 1954-55 amounted to 211,000 bales and 197,000 bales in 1953-54. Imports in August-January 1955-56 amounted to 135,000 bales, or 4 percent more than imports during the same months of 1954-55. Portugal imports only nominal amounts of United States cotton.

PORTUGAL: Imports of cotton by major countries of origin; average 1945-49; annual 1952-54; August-January 1954-55 and 1955-56.

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-January	
	Average	1952	1953	1954	1954-55	1955-56
	1945-49					
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Angola.....	20	31	22	25	16	19
Belgian Congo:	1/	1	1/	6	0	6
Brazil.....	9	2/	14	19	0	1
Egypt.....	3/ 5	3	5	3	1	1
Mozambique...	90	136	156	150	113	103
Peru.....	1/	3	0	2/	0	2
Uganda.....	1/	1	1/	1/	0	3
United States:	1/	1	1/	8	0	0
Other countries:	9	2	2/	2/	0	2/
Total....	133	178	197	211	130	135

1/ If any, included in "Other countries." 2/ Less than 500 bales.

3/ 4-year average.

Source: Comissao Regulador Do Comercio De Algodao Em Rama. Agricultural Attaches, and other United States representatives abroad.

## U. S. AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS IN CALENDAR YEAR 1955

Agricultural imports showed small increase in 1955. United States agricultural imports in calendar year 1955 totaled \$3,967 million, \$6 million more than in 1954, when imports were at a 5-year low point. In quantity, agricultural imports were about 8 percent larger. A gain of \$15 million in complementary, or noncompetitive, imports last year was partly offset by a \$9-million decline in supplementary, or competitive, imports. Supplementary imports have been falling since 1951, when they totaled \$2,319 million.

Industrial imports registered 17-percent increase. While agricultural imports last year increased only slightly over 1954, industrial imports rose by 17 percent, from \$6,279 million to \$7,367 million. The high level of economic activity last year continued to generate increased demand for the raw materials needed by United States industry.

Largest agricultural value declines among competitive imports were in oats and pork. Main supplementary items with smaller values last year than in the year before were pork, oats, feeds and fodders, copra, and fresh tomatoes; each item was down by more than \$5 million. Largest reductions were \$17 million for oats and \$16 million for pork. Most of the value decline for pork was the result of lower prices. A number of other value changes also reflected lower prices. Increases among supplementary imports were mainly in cattle, apparel wool, and nuts.

Price shifts stood out in imports of coffee and rubber--main noncompetitive items. Principal value shifts among complementary items were reductions in coffee, cacao beans, and spices (mainly pepper) and increases in carpet wool and natural rubber. The reduced coffee value reflected lower prices; quantity gained by more than 300 million pounds over 1954. Largest value increase was in rubber--\$179 million--due in part to a small gain in volume but mostly to higher prices.

Supplementary Imports

Opening of Mexican border increased cattle imports. Cattle imports rose from 86 thousand head in 1954 to 314 thousand in 1955. The opening of the Mexican border on January 1, 1955 was followed by an influx of cattle from herds accumulated during the Mexican marketing season. The border had been closed to cattle from May 23, 1953 to January 1, 1955 by reason of reported outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico.

Lower U. S. prices limited pork imports. Last year's lower prices for pork in the United States limited imports of more expensive products like canned hams and increased demand for cheaper products. Result--compared with 1954--was a 9-million pound decline in quantity to 162 million pounds (product weight) and a \$16 million drop in value to \$108 million.

Low domestic prices discouraged imports of oats, feeds and fodders. Imports of oats, which reached large proportions a few years ago due to high domestic prices, declined sharply in 1954 and fell again in 1955. Total of 10 million bushels compared with 34 million in 1954, 88 million in 1953, and 67 million in 1952.



Weakened demand due to lower prices in the United States discouraged imports, which come mainly from Canada. Feed and fodder imports also continued to fall in 1955; imports totaled \$20 million compared with \$36 million in 1954 and \$40 million in 1953.

Wool imports picked up as foreign prices declined. Apparel wool imports turned upward in 1955, registering 181 million pounds compared with 170 million in the year before. Part of the gain was due to lower prices abroad which encouraged greater domestic mill consumption and part to the wool-consumption cycle which reached a low point in 1954.

Cotton imports also gained as foreign prices dropped. Imports of cotton (excluding linters) under established quotas totaled 189 thousand bales in 1955, 60 thousand more than in 1954, when imports were smallest since 1935. Gain reflected somewhat lower prices for imported cotton in relation to those for similar United States varieties. United States mills replenished stocks during most of the year.

The U. S. became a net importer of peanuts last year. Imports totaled 61 thousand tons in 1955 compared with less than 1 thousand in 1954 while exports of less than 1 thousand tons in 1955 contrasted with 69 thousand in 1954. A domestic shortage developed early in 1955 due to the small 1954 United States crop. The import quota of 1,709,000 pounds shelled basis for the year ending June 30, 1955 was raised on March 9 to 52,709,000 pounds, and as of May 16 unlimited quantities were permitted to be imported until August 1. March-July total consequently jumped sharply. Most of the imports came from Brazil, India, and Mexico.

Copra imports held firm. Copra imports during 1955 at 672 million pounds were almost as large as in 1954. Due to lower prices, value declined by \$7 million. Virtually all the imports came from the Philippine Republic.

More vegetable oils were imported, but value was off. Volume of vegetable oil imports increased from 459 million pounds in 1954 to 491 million in 1955, a gain of 7 percent while value fell 7 percent. Volume increases in peanut, castor, and coconut oils more than offset declines in olive, tung, palm, and palm-kernel oils. Peanut oil imports last year were the largest since 1937, reflecting the small United States peanut crop in 1954. Increase in castor oil from the relatively low level in 1954 more than offset the decline in castor beans; imports of beans have been on a downward trend since 1941 due to Brazil's emphasis on oil exports. Less olive oil was imported as the result of smaller Mediterranean supplies. Last year Argentina and Paraguay limited tung oil shipments to the United States because of the United States marketing and supply problem. Smaller palm oil imports reflected further technological advances in the steel industry. An interesting sidelight: The Belgian Congo in 1955 displaced Europe as primary source for palm-kernel oil.

Frost and flood in Mexico reduced tomato imports. Fresh tomato imports totaled 78 million pounds in 1955, about half as much as in the previous year. Chief factor was frost and flood damage to crops in Mexico, principal foreign source.



**UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption  
of selected agricultural commodities and groups during 1954 and 1955 a/**

Commodity imported	Unit:	Year ending December 31			
		Quantity		Value	
		1954	1955	1954	1955
<b>SUPPLEMENTARY</b>				1,000	1,000
<b>ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:</b>		<b>Thousands</b>	<b>Thousands</b>	<b>dollars</b>	<b>dollars</b>
Cattle, dutiable .....	No. :	71 :	296 :	12,078 :	23,688
Cattle, free (for breeding) .....	No. :	15 :	18 :	4,036 :	4,842
Casein and lactarene .....	Lb. :	59,833 :	74,480 :	10,146 :	13,557
Cheese .....	Lb. :	49,958 :	51,940 :	25,223 :	26,672
Hides and skins .....	Lb. :	114,036 :	127,466 :	50,062 :	53,125
Beef and veal, total b/ .....	Lb. :	125,693 :	118,514 :	38,273 :	35,617
Pork, total b/ .....	Lb. :	170,527 :	162,239 :	124,247 :	107,745
Wool, unmd., excl. free, etc. ....	Lb. :	169,539 :	181,475 :	145,041 :	151,865
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:</b>					
Cotton, unmd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale:	129 :	189 :	25,657 :	36,845
Jute & jute butts, unmd. (2,240 lb.)	Ton :	56 :	52 :	12,314 :	13,006
Olives in brine .....	Gal.:	12,815 :	13,890 :	21,670 :	22,768
Pineapples, canned, prep. or pres. .	Lb. :	58,211 :	74,259 :	6,352 :	8,503
Pineapple juice .....	Gal.:	4,520 :	2,478 :	1,877 :	945
Other fruits and preparations .....	c/ :	c/ :	c/ :	34,850 :	30,393
Barley, grain (48 lb.) .....	Bu. :	28,010 :	18,588 :	36,355 :	25,216
Oats, grain (32 lb.) .....	Bu. :	33,738 :	9,958 :	25,929 :	9,345
Wheat, grain (60 lb.) .....	Bu. :	6,358 :	6,526 :	12,282 :	11,049
Feeds and fodders .....	c/ :	c/ :	c/ :	35,503 :	20,158
Nuts and preparations .....	c/ :	c/ :	c/ :	49,149 :	73,009
Castor beans .....	Lb. :	109,205 :	87,533 :	5,003 :	3,852
Copra .....	Lb. :	672,659 :	671,622 :	52,636 :	45,621
Oils, fats, waxes, veg. expressed ..	Lb. :	458,897 :	491,005 :	79,952 :	74,721
Seeds, field and garden .....	c/ :	c/ :	c/ :	18,477 :	16,994
Sugar, cane (2,000 lb.) .....	Ton :	3,742 :	3,898 :	410,831 :	413,690
Molasses, unfit for human consumption:	Gal.:	340,959 :	377,998 :	33,129 :	34,051
Tobacco, cigarette leaf .....	Lb. :	79,332 :	83,675 :	53,750 :	57,439
Tobacco, other leaf .....	Lb. :	14,839 :	14,692 :	22,580 :	21,198
Potatoes, white .....	Lb. :	144,854 :	124,339 :	2,702 :	3,225
Tomatoes, natural state .....	Lb. :	150,336 :	78,235 :	10,543 :	4,921
Other supplementary .....				196,803 :	204,081
<b>Total supplementary</b> .....				<b>1,557,950</b> :	<b>1,548,641</b>
<b>COMPLEMENTARY</b>					
Silk, raw .....	Lb. :	6,321 :	7,802 :	30,675 :	33,549
Wool, unmd., free in bond .....	Lb. :	144,899 :	185,958 :	77,461 :	108,662
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:</b>					
Bananas .....	Bunch:	47,961 :	50,363 :	65,301 :	66,403
Coffee, including into Puerto Rico .	Lb. :	2,261,191 :	2,598,835 :	1,485,899 :	1,356,609
Cocoa or cacao beans .....	Lb. :	516,404 :	499,664 :	252,118 :	184,627
Tea .....	Lb. :	114,701 :	104,628 :	62,333 :	64,762
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.) .....	Ton :	145 :	147 :	27,648 :	23,302
Spices (complementary) .....	Lb. :	82,426 :	78,447 :	39,355 :	31,055
Rubber, crude .....	Lb. :	1,337,729 :	1,422,790 :	262,061 :	440,598
Other complementary .....				99,400 :	108,302
<b>Total complementary</b> .....				<b>2,402,751</b> :	<b>2,418,369</b>
<b>TOTAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES</b> .....				<b>3,960,701</b> :	<b>3,967,010</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES</b> .....				<b>10,239,517</b> :	<b>11,333,995</b>

a/ Preliminary. b/ Product weight. c/ Reported in value only.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

### Complementary Imports

Carpet wool imports nearly regained 1953 volume. Carpet wool imports totaled 186 million pounds last year, about 40 million more than in 1954 and close to the level attained in 1953. As in the case of apparel wool, lower prices abroad stimulated consumption of carpet wool also.

Coffee import volume was larger, but value was down due to lower prices. Coffee imports were about 340 million pounds larger in 1955 than in 1954, but the lower level of prices resulted in a value decline of \$129 million. Reduced prices were attributed to improved world supplies.

Cacao bean imports were slow due to higher prices. Imports of cacao beans continued to decline in 1955 and were smallest since 1942. Total of 500 million pounds compared with 516 million in 1954. Higher prices--due to smaller world supplies and increased demand in Europe--accounted for the decline as United States buyers extended supplies through the use of substitutes and importation of larger amounts of prepared cocoa.

Industrial expansion increased rubber imports. Natural rubber imports last year rose by 85 million pounds, 6 percent, compared with 1954; value, reflecting higher prices, showed a 70-percent rise. Prices were higher as greater world consumption outpaced world production. At the same time, heavier United States purchases resulted from increased consumption due to stepped-up domestic economic activity, particularly the greater production and use of automobiles. Consumption of tires and other rubber products was larger.

### TOBACCO AUCTIONS SUSPENDED IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

The American Consulate General in Southern Rhodesia reported on April 10 that the tobacco auctions have been suspended probably for at least a week pending discussions with the Tobacco Advisory Commission in London. The action was reportedly taken because of the erratic and uncertain state of the market, particularly on medium quality grades.

During the first 12 days of sale this year more than 6.5 million pounds of leaf have been sold at an average price of 38.6 U. S. cents per pound compared with an average of about 47.2 U. S. cents per pound last year. The opinion in Salisbury is that the quality of offerings to date this year have been below average.

### INDONESIAN TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN 14.9 MILLION POUNDS

Indonesian exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955 totaled 28.0 million pounds, 14.9 million pounds below the 1954 postwar high of 43.0 million pounds. Most of the decline occurred in reduced shipments to the Netherlands while exports to Japan increased from .2 to 3.5 million pounds - a record high. The decline in exports is attributed to adverse weather conditions affecting the output of the two previous crops.



INDONESIA: Exports of Unmanufactured tobacco  
during 1955, with comparisons

Country of Destination	1953	1954	1955 1/
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Netherlands .....	27,648	41,228	23,929
United States .....	560	734	60
Western Germany .....	-----	265	-----
Japan .....	-----	207	3,505
Indochina .....	637	522	536
Others .....	3,089	18	13
Total .....	31,934	42,974	28,043

1/ Preliminary

AUSTRIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS  
UP 4 MILLION POUNDS

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly during 1955 totaled 20.7 million pounds - up 24 percent from the 16.7 million pounds imported in 1954. Most of the increase occurred in larger takings from the United States, Turkey, Brazil, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Central African Federation. Imports from India and Greece were slightly below the 1954 level while takings from the Dominican Republic and Yugoslavia were nil.

AUSTRIA: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco  
during 1955, with comparisons

Country of Origin	1953	1954	1955 1/
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States .....	7,930	4,228	6,640
Dominican Republic .....	692	476	-----
Brazil .....	796	257	880
Greece .....	5,649	6,512	6,287
Turkey .....	4,261	1,565	3,411
Bulgaria .....	622	1,102	1,415
Yugoslavia .....	990	992	-----
India .....	670	814	770
Central African Federation ..	530	550	901
Other .....	621	217	396
Total .....	22,761	16,713	20,700

1/ Preliminary

About 40 percent of the Tobacco Monopoly imports are provided for by the use of bilateral trade agreements. Imports of Soviet "Bloc" leaf, primarily from Bulgaria and Hungary, during the past 3 years amounted to .7, 1.1, and 1.6 million pounds, respectively.

#### IRELAND'S TOBACCO IMPORTS UP 7.9 PERCENT

Irish imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955 totaled 14.9 million pounds, 1.1 million pounds greater than the 1954 level of 13.8 million pounds. Takings of United States leaf were about .6 million pounds larger than the 13.2 million pounds imported in 1954. Usings by Irish manufacturers continued downward through 1955, but still exceeded total imports by about 1 million pounds. Stocks as of December 31, 1955, totaled 34.1 million pounds and were equivalent to about 26 months' supply.

#### CUBAN TOBACCO EXPORTS UP 5.4 MILLION POUNDS

Cuban exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955 totaled 47.7 million pounds, 5.4 million pounds greater than in 1954, establishing a new postwar record.

Most of the increase occurred in larger shipments to the United States, Belgium, Switzerland, Western Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. The average export value per pound at 72.9 U. S. cents was considerably below the 80.9 cents per pound last year.

CUBA: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955, with comparisons

Country of Destination	1953	1954	1955 <u>1/</u>
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States.....	25,390	25,457	27,104
Spain.....	2,404	8,588	8,558
Western Germany.....	1,417	1,637	2,636
Netherlands.....	1,146	1,017	3,050
Canary Islands.....	472	574	741
Uruguay.....	1,041	1,118	1,061
Others.....	4,306	3,974	4,577
Total.....	36,176	42,365	47,727

1/ Preliminary



## HONG KONG'S TOBACCO TRADE DOWN

Hong Kong's imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955 totaled 6.8 million pounds - down 17 percent from the 8.2 million pounds imported in 1954. Most of the decline occurred in reduced takings from India, Macao and the Central African Federation. However, imports from the United States increased 9.5 percent above the 1954 level of 3.5 million pounds, and represented 56.7 percent of the total.

Hong Kong's reexports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955 totaled only 1.9 million pounds as compared with 3.0 million pounds in 1954. Shipments to Macao, the principal export outlet, totaled .9 million pounds in contrast to 1.8 million pounds in 1954; while exports to the Federation of Malaya and the Netherlands were sharply above the 1954 shipments.

## PEPPER EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL SPONSORED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT

The Government of India has sponsored the Cashew and Pepper Export Promotion Council under the chairmanship of the Deputy Controller of Imports and Exports, at Cochin. The Council, consisting of 25 members including the chairman, has a representative each of the Madras and Travancore-Cochin Governments, 4 representatives of cashew and pepper growers, 9 representatives of pepper exporters, 8 representatives of cashew manufacturers and exporters, and one representing the importers of raw cashew nuts.

The Council has not yet started functioning actively, but its scope will include: increasing internal production, better basis of crop estimation, export promotion, standardization of quality and trade terms, and, in fact, organization of the pepper trade from every aspect. The Council is expected to function actively beginning next year.

## INDIA PLANS FUTURES TRADING IN PEPPER

The Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the Forward Markets Commission to grant recognition for a period of 3 years to an association which may be constituted at Cochin, for conducting futures trading in pepper. Cochin seems to have been chosen because of its preeminent position in the pepper trade both as an export center and as a center nearest to the pepper producing areas.

## REOPENING OF HAMBURG COFFEE EXCHANGE

On April 3, 1956, the Hamburg Coffee Exchange was scheduled to resume operations after a 17-year interlude. The exchange was formally reopened on March 23. This coffee exchange was established in 1887, and except for the years 1913-1925 and 1939-1956, has been in continuous operation. It has about 300 members. The building in which the exchange is located will house the offices of many of Hamburg's approximately 50 coffee importers and brokers as well as a central exchange and futures market.

The organizers of the present exchange hope that it will stabilize the price of coffee and thereby reduce the risk to the coffee agent and importer. It is also hoped that it will aid Hamburg in regaining its importance as a terminus for the European coffee trade. Eighty percent of the coffee imported in Western Germany passes through Hamburg, and the coffee exchange will certainly aid Hamburg in maintaining its place as the center of the Federal Republic's coffee trade as well as strengthening its drive to become the focal point of European coffee importation.

## CANADA'S COTTON CONSUMPTION DROPS SLIGHTLY IN MARCH

Canada's cotton mill consumption amounted to 34,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in March 1956, dropping slightly from the 34,200 bales consumed in February, and 5 percent below consumption of 35,800 bales in March 1955. Consumption during the 8-month period August-March 1955-56 increased, however, amounting to 269,000 bales or 12 percent more than the use of 240,000 bales in the same months of 1954-55.

Canada's cotton imports for the first 5 months of the 1955-56 marketing year amounted to 155,000 bales or 7 percent higher than imports of 145,000 bales in the corresponding period of 1954-55. A marked shift to Mexican cotton was noted in the current period. Quantities imported from principal sources in August-December 1955, with comparable figures for 1954 in parentheses were: Mexico 90,000 bales (2,000); United States 52,000 (138,000); Nicaragua 5,000 (none); El Salvador 4,000 (none); Pakistan 2,000 (500); Brazil 1,000 (4,000); Peru 600 (400); and India 500 (100).

Considerable interest by Canadian textile mills in the purchase of United States cotton from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks has been reported. Mills generally have sufficient cotton purchased for use up to the end of July but fear that delays in sampling, classing, reweighing and assembling the CCC cotton will not insure its arrival in Canada in time for consumption needs during August and early September.

## BURMA TO INCREASE USE OF U. S. COTTON

An increase in the use of United States cotton by Burma is expected to result from the agreement signed by the latter country and the United States in February 1956, for the purchase of approximately \$17,500,000 worth of cotton (about 100,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) under Title I, Public Law 480, with payment to be made in Burmese currency. Approximately \$1,000,000 worth of the cotton (5,500 bales) will be imported into Burma for processing there. The balance will be processed by mills in other countries with part of the cotton retained as payment for processing. Cotton textiles, with the equivalent value of the cotton received under the agreement, will then be shipped to Burma to complete the arrangement. The countries to participate in these tripartite arrangements will be announced when the purchase authorizations are issued.

Nearly all of the clothing used in Burma consists of cotton textiles, most of which are imported. Spinning facilities are limited to only one mill which presently consumes about 9,000 bales of cotton per year. Burma has been importing large quantities of textiles from countries that accept sterling in payment. More recently, however, they have participated in barter arrangements.

Burma's total cotton consumption in August-July 1954-55 was estimated at 20,000 bales, as compared with 17,000 bales in 1953-54. Most of this was domestic cotton since imports amount to only about 1,000 bales per year. Nonmill consumption or other disappearance account for the difference between total consumption and the 9,000-bale mill use mentioned above. Nonmill consumption includes hand-spun yarns used for blankets or loongyis and cotton for jacket filling or local medical use.

Exports of Burmese short-stapled cotton during August-July 1954-55 were estimated at 76,000 bales as compared with 92,000 bales in 1953-54. This short-stapled cotton is mostly of the Wagale variety which has a staple length of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inch. Heavy demand from Japan and European countries in recent weeks has caused heavier shipments in February and March 1956, and no excess stocks are expected for carryover into next year. Stocks on August 1, 1955, were estimated at 22,000 bales or about 30 percent higher than stocks of 17,000 bales held a year earlier. Imports of United States cotton are not expected in any volume until after August 1, 1956.

Burmese postwar cotton acreage has averaged about 400,000 acres which is about 3 percent of the Burmese rice acreage. Cotton acreage for the years 1954-55 and 1953-54 was estimated at 450,000 acres each. Official production figures are based on acreage and estimated yield figures, as there is no system for regular collection of production data from gins or other sources. Production during 1954-55 was estimated at 100,000 bales as compared with 105,000 in 1953-54. The 1955-56 crop is expected to drop to about 95,000 bales because of heavy rains during the picking season, a rare phenomenon in Burma. Cotton acreage is mainly in the dry zone of Central Burma. The crop is not irrigated.



# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AUTHORIZES LIMITED IMPORTS OF MEDIUM-STAPLE COTTON

The Government of India announced on April 9, 1956, that effective immediately, import licenses will be granted for the import of up to 40,000 bales of cotton, stapling 7/8 inch to 1-1/16 inches in length, from both dollar and nondollar areas. Licenses will be issued to mills and importers on a first-come-first-served basis, and will be valid up to June 30, 1956. On December 12, 1955, the Government had freed imports of cotton stapling 1-1/16 inches and over from nondollar areas. Imports of these qualities from the United States were being authorized on a limited basis at that time.

The validity period for cotton export licenses for the 1955-56 season expired on March 31, 1956. Requests by shippers for extension of the validity period were refused by the Government, reportedly because of the scarcity of some qualities of indigenous cotton and the bullish market conditions. It appears that there may be a shortage of desirable medium-length cotton in India in view of the Government permission to import staples normally produced in adequate quantities and the early termination of the export licenses.

India's exports of cotton up to April 5 of the 1955-56 season amounted to approximately 450,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of which 190,000 bales were shipped to Japan. During the same periods in 1954-55 and 1953-54 exports amounted to 172,000 and 164,000 bales, respectively.

## NEW ZEALAND BEGINS BEEF PRICE SUPPORT PAYMENTS

The New Zealand government has begun price support (deficiency) payments on chilled beef because of low prices received from exports to the United Kingdom. Prices of frozen beef are only slightly above support levels.

Minimum prices on meat during the current season were set at approximately 75 percent of the prices actually received for exports during the previous season. Price determinations include allowances for prices received for by-products. The current market price for frozen beef f.o.b. Auckland is equivalent to around \$13.20 per 100 pounds. Prices of frozen beef on the average are only around 5 shillings per 100 pounds (0.7 cents per pound) above the guaranteed minimums. The price support payment on chilled beef carcasses loaded for export during the week ended March 31 was one farthing per pound (0.2 cents).



## AUSTRALIAN WOOL SALES

Wool sales were held at Sydney, Melbourne and Perth during the week ending March 23, 1956. About 150,000 bales of wool were sold during the week (the last before the Easter recess). Prices were firm but ranged from near 10 percent to 25 percent below a year earlier.

The major quantities were purchased for the European continent and Japan. Appreciable quantities were purchased for the United Kingdom and the United States, near the end of the week.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification.  
(Current prices with comparisons)

Type and Grade	Week Ended		
	3-16-56	3-23-56	Year Ago 3-25-55
- - - - U. S. DOLLARS PER POUND - - - -			
<u>Combing Wools</u>			
70's Good.....	1.31	1.31	1.49
Average.....	1.23	1.23	1.41
64's Good.....	1.13	1.14	1.33
Average.....	1.11	1.12	1.30
60's Good.....	1.01	1.01	1.24
Average.....	.99	.99	1.18
58's Good.....	.91	.91	1.17
Average.....	.88	.89	-----
56's Good.....	.84	.85	1.09
Average.....	.83	.83	-----
50's Good.....	.77	.77	.96
Average.....	.76	.76	-----
<u>Carding Wools</u>			
Merino.....	.80	.80	.90
Comeback.....	.75	.75	.85
Fine Crossbred.....	.70	.70	.85
Medium Crossbred.....	.66	.66	.84

Source: Australian Statistical Service of the Australian Wool Bureau.

## CANADIAN PIG CROP UP 2 PERCENT

The spring pig crop in Canada this year will be about 2 percent larger than in 1955, on the basis of farmers' intentions reported on March 1.

Farmers' intentions indicate a 5 percent increase in the pig crop in Eastern Canada but a 2 percent drop in the 4 Western Provinces. The expected decline in the pig crop will show up in decreased hog slaughter during the fall and winter of 1956-57.

The number of sows to farrow during the spring season of 1956 (December-May) is expected to total 639,000 head for Canada. The number to farrow in the Eastern Region is estimated at 363,000 head.

## WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS 1955 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1956

World sheep numbers continued to increase in 1955 for the ninth consecutive year. The total of 910 million head is 2 percent larger than a year earlier, 22 percent above prewar, and 26 percent above the 1946-50 average. Numbers increased in all major areas of the world during 1955, except in North America.

Sheep numbers are at particularly high levels in South America and Africa. Numbers in Oceania and Asia are considerably above prewar. They are only slightly above prewar in Europe, but in North America are 35 percent below prewar and 9 percent under the 1946-50 average.

Greatly increased wool prices resulting from the outbreak of the Korean conflict in 1950 gave a strong stimulus to the expansion of sheep numbers over much of the world. Although wool prices have declined substantially from their peaks reached during the war, they appear to be attractive enough to encourage continued large production in South America, New Zealand, and Australia.

In most areas of Africa numbers have continued to increase, due to greater need for meat because of increased living standards. The increase also has been due in part to relatively good returns from sales of wool, improved husbandry practices, and agricultural development. In the Union of South Africa the increases in sheep numbers have been held down by competition from other enterprises. Sheep have tended to be pushed from the areas where irrigation has been developed by more intensive types of agriculture. As a consequence, sheep numbers in the Union have barely reached their prewar average although they have increased steadily in recent years.

Apparently sheep numbers in China have made a substantial increase since the end of World War II in 1945. Numbers have also continued upward in the Soviet Union although recent estimates are for October, whereas they formerly were for January. It is believed that numbers in Eastern Europe are continuing upward at a fairly good rate, but in Western Europe there has been little change during the past two years.

Sheep numbers in North America have changed little since 1951. Numbers in Canada have increased slightly after reaching a low point in 1952, but are less than half their prewar level. In the United States the number is also slightly greater than the all time low reached in 1950 but 40 percent below prewar. In Mexico and in Central America, as a whole, numbers have increased generally in recent years.

Sheep numbers continued to increase in the United Kingdom during 1955, and it is expected that this upward trend will continue. Sheep producers have received much incentive to increase numbers through special production subsidies and price supports. Numbers continued to increase in France and in Greece. Apparently numbers are declining in Italy.

Sheep numbers apparently have increased materially in recent years in Eastern Europe and the total now is considerably above prewar. Bulgaria and Rumania are the largest sheep producers in the region and Poland is the third largest producer.

Numbers are continuing to increase in Asia also. Numbers in Iran and Turkey appear to be increasing and are at high levels. Numbers in India and Pakistan probably have been well maintained or may have increased in recent years.

Numbers in South America have continued to increase with divergent trends for different countries. Competition from grain farming and cattle production in most sections has tended to hold down sheep production. Also, high prices for slaughter sheep may have induced marketings at the expense of future production. Chile has had difficulty in importing enough feeder sheep from Argentina and has had little surplus mutton for export. There are widespread losses of sheep in Peru because of drought and the lamb crop has been sharply reduced. On the other hand, numbers in Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay have increased rapidly in recent years.

Generally sheep numbers in Africa have been increasing, but in the principal producing country (the Union of South Africa) the gains have been moderate.

In Australia, the world's largest producer of sheep, numbers have established a new record high of around 137 million head. This increase has been the result of relatively favorable grazing conditions in recent years, high returns from sheep and wool and low cost production. Mass eradication of rabbits with myxomatosis has made it possible to graze millions of additional sheep.



SHEEP: Number in Specified Countries 1936-40 and 1946-50, Annual 1951-56

Continent and Country	Month of Estimate	Averages					1953	1954	1955	1956
		1936-40	1946-50	1951	1952	1953				
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>										
Canada	Dec. 1	2,651	1,681	1,286	1,016	1,105	1,161	1,183	1,181	
Guatemala	July	273	665							
Mexico	Dec. 31	4,809	4,931	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,200	5,300	
United States	Jan. 1	51,404	34,993	30,633	31,982	31,900	31,356	31,582	31,109	
Estimated Total		59,700	42,800	38,200	39,400	39,400	39,000	39,400	39,000	
<b>EUROPE</b>										
Austria	Dec. 3	316	419	332	319	297	278	255		
Belgium	Jan. 1	187	132	116	124	114	110	104		
Denmark	July 15	147	93	56	48	39	37	32		
Finland	June 15	1,007	1,071	1,096	1,126	998	908	749		
France	Oct. 1	9,648	7,257	7,511	7,585	7,675	7,626	8,014	8,171	
Germany, Western	Dec. 1	1,889	2,274	1,642	1,666	1,544	1,352	1,226	1,188	
Greece	Dec. 31	6,304	6,698	6,905	7,326	7,784	8,738	8,940	9,000	
Iceland	Dec. 31	624	462	416	411	443	544	545		
Ireland	June	3,076	2,229	2,616	2,857	2,930	3,113	3,269		
Italy	Jan. 1	9,650	9,624	10,295	10,142	10,002	9,892	9,746	9,650	
Netherlands	May	636	459		383	424	407	378		
Norway	June 20	1,742	1,716		1,987	1,985	1,952	1,922		
Portugal	Dec. 31	3,890		5,000		5,200				
Spain	April 1		16,132		16,348	16,181	17,233			
Sweden	Summer	398	368	261	256	241	234	177		
Switzerland	April	177	189	191	190	185	195	195		
United Kingdom	June	26,112	19,032	19,984	21,655	22,455	22,873	22,957	23,600	
Yugoslavia	Jan.	9,920	10,845	10,273	10,518	11,400	12,112	12,000		
Estimated Total		121,000	103,500	109,300	113,200	116,300	121,000	121,200	122,500	
Western Europe		94,300	83,300	85,400	88,000	90,000	93,100	92,800	93,500	
Eastern Europe		26,700	20,300	23,900	25,200	26,300	27,900	28,400	29,000	
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	3/ 66,000	67,700	78,000	86,000	12/ 114,900	112/ 117,500	12/ 124,900		
<b>ASIA</b>										
Cyprus	Oct.	300	302	295	311	351	361			
Iran	Mar. 21	14,497	12,800	14,672	16,200	17,000	17,750	18,000		
Iraq	Mar. 31	7,090	7,323	9,000	8,700					
Syria	Dec. 31	2,954	2,954	2,930	3,085	3,560	3,746	3,955		
Turkey	Dec. 31	21,656	24,053	23,083	24,833	26,561	26,550	26,800		
China	Jan. 1	30,000	28,000							
India	Jan. 1	41,000	38,200		40,000	40,000				
Indonesia	Dec. 31	1,614	1,805	2,008	2,565	2,381				
Japan	Feb. 1		309	449	577	693	733	895	1,083	
Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	128	24	21	22	21	21	22	23	
Pakistan	Jan. 1	8,000	6,150		9,000					
Estimated Total		156,700	156,000	166,100	173,000	178,300	180,400	182,400	184,600	



## SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina	July	5/ 44,900	3/	50,000	50,500	54,684	51,000	51,500	-
Bolivia	Dec. 31	1/ 2,608	3/	3,000	-	-	-	6,464	-
Chile	Dec. 31	1/ 11,438	5/	14,413	14,251	15,891	16,264	16,800	17,503
Colombia	June	5/ 5,855	5/	6,456	6,500	7,200	6,500	-	-
Colombia	Jan.	1/ 916	5/	1,110	1,339	1,350	1,465	1,114	-
Ecuador		-		1,480	-	1,559	-	1,351	-
Falkland Islands		604		610	597	584	594	600	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31	1/ 159		254	216	217	218	-	-
Peru	May	3/ 14,900		17,852	16,268	15,904	16,190	-	-
Uruguay	May	3/ 17,931		21,600	23,409	24,543	25,677	26,578	27,000
Estimated Total				116,900	118,800	126,000	124,400	127,400	129,400
									130,000

## AFRICA

Algeria 13/	April	6,180		3,486	5,321	6,028	6,014	6,009	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		5/ 2,500	3/	5,375	6,000	-	-	-	-
Kenya		5/ 3,274	5/	3,260	3,400	-	-	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31	1/ 1,780	5/	2,263	2,445	2,339	2,515	2,800	-
Uganda	Mar. 31	1,285	5/	1,018	1,035	1,051	1,128	-	-
Basutoland	Feb.	1,443	5/	1,630	1,564	-	1,303	-	-
Egypt	July 1	5/ 1,771		1,943	1,944	1,959	1,864	-	-
Ethiopia (Incl. Eritrea)		-		-	-	-	-	19,500	-
Fed. Nyasaland & Rhodesias	Dec. 31	1/ 399		393	354	373	394	334	334
French Morocco 13/	Dec. 31	1/ 9,976		7,939	10,375	10,960	16/ 9,945	16/ 13,262	-
French West Africa & Togo		5/ 8,674		9,000	-	-	10,800	-	-
Madagascar 13/	Dec. 31	1/ 193		171	244	284	365	397	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31	1/ 84		66	74	82	76	75	-
South West Africa		5/ 2,972	3/	2,712	-	3,500	3,500	3,200	-
Spanish Morocco 13/	June	481		611	-	667	661	758	-
Tunisia 13/	Dec. 31	1/ 3,026		2,010	2,361	3,060	3,420	2,872	3,352
Union of South Africa	Aug.	39,899		31,542	34,823	35,480	35,992	37,142	-
Estimated Total		99,700		98,400	113,200	118,300	118,900	123,700	126,300
									128,500

## OCEANIA

Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 112,571		103,261	115,596	117,646	123,072	126,944	130,849
New Zealand	Apr. 30	31,352		32,973	34,786	35,384	36,193	38,011	39,117
Estimated Total		144,000		136,300	150,400	153,100	159,300	165,000	170,000
Estimated World Total				141,700	774,000	809,000	851,500	874,000	893,600
									908,600

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals; thus, for Canada the December 1, 1950 estimate of 1,286,000 head is shown under 1951. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Census or estimate for single year. 4/ June. 5/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 6/ Official estimates; may be under estimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ March. 9/ Spring. 10/ Census, December 31, 1940. 11/ Sheep one year old and older. 12/ October. 13/ Data include only number taxed. 14/ A new series of estimates was inaugurated by the Directorate of Veterinary Service in 1951. 15/ Includes China proper (22 provinces) Manchuria, Jehol, and Sinkiang (Turkestan), excludes Outer Mongolia. 16/ Includes animals under one year old.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which no official estimates are available. Foreign Agricultural Service, April 1956.

Returns from mutton, lamb, and wool in New Zealand have been large enough to encourage an expansion in sheep production. Numbers have now reached a new high record of around 40 million head. Improved pastures and pasture management have made it possible to maintain record sheep numbers despite a record number of cattle.

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.

#### 1956 ALMOND AND FILBERT CROP PROSPECTS IN SPAIN

Preliminary and unofficial estimates of the 1956 almond crop in Spain indicate a possible production of 15,000 short tons. Although this would mean less than 60 percent of an average crop (the 5-year, 1949-53 average is 26,600 tons), it indicates considerably more of a crop than was forecast in the early reports from Spain immediately following the February freezes. It would also mean a somewhat larger crop than in 1955, when only 13,000 tons were harvested. A forecast at this time of the season is of course based on the assumption that there would be no further weather damage between now and harvest time. Growing conditions since the end of the cold wave in late February have been good, with general and gentle rains and sunshine.

At this date it appears that the oncoming filbert crop was not damaged by the February weather despite earlier fears of some injury to the setting fruit. Some sources indicate a "normal" crop, but it is still too early for even a preliminary estimate. Average production in the 5-years, 1949-53, was 15,700 tons. For 1955 the crop has been estimated at 12,000 tons.

#### LARGER BEAN EXPORTS EXPECTED FROM CHILE

The current bean harvest in Chile is expected to yield about 750,000 bags for export, according to official estimates. This will include the following quantities by classes:

(1,000 pound bags)

Arroz	440,000
Cristales	175,000
Red Kidney	110,000
Red Mexican	25,000
	<u>750,000</u>

This would be 50 to 150 thousand bags more than was exported in any of the last 5 years, but about equal to the average annual export previous to 1950.

No prices are available in Chile for new-crop beans, but the Chilean trade expects prices of export classes to be above prices of 1955 crop beans, which in the first 3 months of 1956 were as follows, f.o.b. port, bagged:

1956	<u>Arroz : Cristales : Red Mexican : Red Kidney</u> (Dollars per bag of 100 pounds)			
January	5.64	5.85	4.03	7.36
February	5.14	5.24	4.03	7.86
March	5.54	5.75	4.23	8.06

Recently, 1956 crop Arroz beans were sold c.i.f. London for \$7.42 per hundred pounds, and a small lot of Canadian beans for \$7.94.

Total bean production in Chile for the harvest currently in progress is estimated at 1,872,000 bags, compared with 1,672,000 bags last year, and a 5-year (1950-54) average production of 1,675,000 bags.

April 1 stocks of beans in Chile were estimated at 45,000 bags, about half of which were export classes. Last year's opening stocks were about twice this volume.

#### 1956 INDIAN CASHEW FORECAST LOWER

Unofficial forecasts of 1956 Indian cashew production now indicate a crop of only 50,000 short tons, a reduction of 7,000 tons from earlier expectations. The reduction is reportedly due to dry weather, but the crop could still be larger than currently forecast should needed rains materialize. The estimate of the 1955 crop has been revised upward, from the 62,000 short tons previously reported, to 65,000 tons.

#### WESTERN GERMANY TO PURCHASE U. S. ASPARAGUS

The Western German Government on April 12 issued a tender announcement permitting the importation of canned asparagus center cuts without tips from the United States. Applications are now being received, but will not be accepted after June 30, 1956. No value limit was announced and no customs clearance limitation date specified. Import licenses will be valid for 6 months.



#### FRANCE AUTHORIZES ADDITIONAL APPLE AND PEAR IMPORTS

The French Government announced in the Journal Officiel on April 7 a special quota for the importation of 367,000 boxes of apples and pears from overseas countries. Imports under this quota must be cleared through customs by May 31, 1956. This quota plus the quota issued on March 20 for 643,000 boxes makes a total of over 1,000,000 boxes. This is slightly higher than the 900,000 boxes the Ministry of Agriculture had originally planned to import.

While the French trade generally considers it too late to import pears from the United States, Northwest Winesaps could be imported if available shipping space can be found.

#### EUROPEAN POTATO SUPPLY SHORT

The United Kingdom Minister of Agriculture on April 12 stated that all Europe is suffering from a potato shortage. New potato imports are arriving, however, and there is no intention of imposing price controls. By early April, most of the early potatoes in England and Wales had been planted and plantings had started on the second early and main crops. Reports from the Netherlands indicate that there was little damage to stored potatoes, but export licenses for table potatoes were suspended on April 21.

In the Mediterranean area, most crops have been delayed on account of the severe cold weather, and additional cool weather since the earlier freezes. In Sicily, loadings are now averaging about 25 truckloads a day with most of the shipments destined for the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

During the week of April 8, cold weather further delayed development of the Italian potato crop. There was snow in Naples and the Apulia area on April 8. In the Barcelona area of Spain, growers expect to start harvesting potatoes the latter part of April and hope to export about one-half million bushels to the United Kingdom by mid-May. Cyprus potatoes have been delayed by cold weather and shipments are expected to begin about May 10 instead of the normal date of May 1. Growers expect to export about 1,300,000 bushels to the United Kingdom this spring, compared with 750,000 bushels last spring.

#### SPAIN'S ORANGE EXPORT SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

A few small shipments of oranges are still being made from this year's crops, but the frost in February has curtailed the crop so drastically that the season can be considered to have ended on March 31. During this season Spain exported 18 million boxes of oranges, as compared with the 27 million boxes exported in the 1954-55 season.



In Valencia, next year's citrus crop is expected to be much smaller since many trees which were thought might yield fruit have not yet shown any signs of flowering.

#### SWITZERLAND PERMITS UNRESTRICTED APPLE IMPORTS

The Ministry of Economic Affairs announced on April 12 the opening of unrestricted imports of apples into Switzerland, apples already imported being held in transit warehouses may also be sold.

According to the Swiss Fruit Traders' Association, stocks at the end of March amounted to 253,000 bushels of Swiss apples, and 161,000 bushels of imported apples.

#### FRANCE SETS JUNE 1 FOR OPENING OF ADDITIONAL ORANGE IMPORTS

Officials of the French Government and fruit trade representatives have decided to open the import season on June 1 for Californian, South African, and Brazilian oranges. By this time, shipments of North African oranges will have been completed.

#### DANISH IMPORTS OF RAISINS LARGER AS A RESULT OF LIBERALIZATION

Since Denmark liberalized the importation of raisins on November 1, 1955, imports have increased considerably. During the calendar year of 1955, Denmark imported 5,193.7 short tons of raisins. Two-thirds of these were imported in November and December after the liberalization with 2,921 tons being imported from the United States in these months. Imports have continued at a high rate in 1956, with the total imports for November, December, and January equaling the total volume imported during the entire calendar year 1954.

#### WIND STORM DAMAGES BANANAS IN COSTA RICA AND PANAMA

In early April, wind storms in Costa Rica blew down about 800,000 banana plants, but only one-fourth of these were bearing. In Panama, nearly one-half million plants were blown down and approximately one-half of them had reached bearing age.

#### KENYA INCREASES WHEAT AND CORN SUPPORT PRICES FOR 1957

Higher guaranteed prices to European and African corn and wheat farmers will go into effect after the 1956 planted crops have been harvested, according to recent Kenya Government announcement. The price of corn (200 pound bag) will be increased from \$5.34 to \$5.60, with a resultant small increase in the cost of basic corn rations to African workers. The price of wheat (200 pound bag) will be increased from \$7.28 to \$7.37.

The Kenya corn crop for the current season ending in July is estimated at 1,640,000 bags. However, it is reported that this will meet the Colony's 1956 needs, without drawing upon the existing 1 million bag reserve available from the two previous seasons' bumper crops. In 1955 about 100,000 long tons were exported at a loss to the Maize and Produce Control of about \$2.1 million because world market prices were lower than the domestic support price.

#### BRITISH EAST AFRICA PLANS INCREASED WHEAT IMPORTS

British East Africa may have to import as much as 40,000 long tons of wheat in 1956 as the result of severe crop damage to Kenya's 1955 crop from rust and unseasonal heavy rains. The long term import needs of wheat for British East Africa in the next 10 to 15 years have recently been estimated at 50,000 or more long tons per annum.

#### NATIVE AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNED IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Under the existing Native Husbandry Act in Southern Rhodesia, it is planned to bring 1,500,000 additional acres under soil conservation protection during the next 4 years. Construction of 10,000 miles of new dirt farm roads and 46 bridges, 195 new wells, 117 small dams and 33 other water conservation projects also are included in the plans, as well as purchase of 78 additional tractors and other farm equipment.

The Native Husbandry Act provides for the gradual shifting of African farming from a communal to an individual ownership basis. This plan is based partially on the experience already demonstrated by the 3,000 Master African farmers in Southern Rhodesia, who individually own and operate their farms under modern farming practices. The purpose of the Act is to increase the present low production and low cash income of African farmers.

# FLUID MILK CONSUMPTION LAGS BEHIND ISRAELI PRODUCTION

Consumer demand for fluid milk did not keep pace with a 10-per-cent increase in Israeli cow's milk production which totaled over 360 million pounds during 1955. The surplus was used in the manufacture of cheese, butter and cream and somewhat replaced the utilization of powdered milk, primarily imported from the United States.

Milk sales from January through August were only 1.5 per cent above the corresponding period in 1954. In August, however, with the advent of bottled pasteurized milk having a 2.6 per cent butter-fat content, rather than the usual standardized 2.3 per cent, consumption rose considerably. During the September - December period, consumption was 7.5 per cent over the same months in 1954.

Another problem facing the Israeli dairy farmer during 1955 was the narrowing margin between production costs and official prices for milk. The consumer price remained unchanged throughout the year at 13.1 cents per quart, while prices of labor and feed continued to rise. To offset this squeeze somewhat the Government reversed a former decision regarding the milk subsidy, and raised it from 2.3 cents per quart to 3.7 cents per quart. In addition, this subsidy, formerly paid only on milk for fluid use, was to be paid on all milk brought to central distributing centers during 1955. Further aid, however, would have to come through encouraged increased consumption and improved efficiency on the farm.

## COLORED BUTTERMILK POWDER SOLD BY NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is currently selling more than 160,000 pounds of a green-colored powdered buttermilk to Malaya each month. The colored powder is one of 30 different ways in which New Zealand is packaging and marketing milk powder to meet buyers' requirements or changing needs in a highly competitive commodity.

Both Singapore and the Federation of Malaya import buttermilk powder for poultry feed and demand that it be colored so that it is easily distinguishable from milk, either in the powdered form or when mixed with water. To meet the requirement for Malaya, which is currently New Zealand's best customer for buttermilk powder outside of the United Kingdom, New Zealand colors the buttermilk destined for the Federation of Malaya and Singapore with a harmless and soluble vegetable coloring matter.



#### PANAMANIAN MILK PLANT INCREASES CAPACITY

The Chiriqui Province dried milk plant, which opened last December (Foreign Crops and Markets, January 2, 1956) with 9 suppliers providing approximately 900 liters of fresh milk is now purchasing 5,000 liters from 90 suppliers at \$2.64 per cwt. for milk with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent butterfat. The plant has a capacity of 12,500 liters daily. It is expected that local sources will eventually replace imports of dried skimmed milk, now used with fresh milk to produce "Vitalac". Later, the company plans to extend production to include butter and cheese.

During 1955, farmers in the central provinces supplied the Nestle's Company with 5.1 million liters of milk for the production of 2.7 million kilograms of condensed and evaporated milk.

#### ARGENTINA REDUCES CASEIN PRICE

The "aforo" price for Argentina casein has been lowered from 21.5 cents a pound to 16.0 cents a pound as a result of a recent action by the Argentina government. The aforo price is the one on which the government levies its 15 percent export tax and, consequently, is the floor price for casein in export trade. A report from Buenos Aires states that casein was being offered at 18.0 cents a pound. The wholesale price in New York for the week ending April 13 for carlot quantities of Argentina 30 mesh acid casein ranged from 22.25 cents to 23.5 cents a pound, duty paid.

#### INDIA PUTS EXPORT DUTY ON LINSEED, NIGERSEED AND KARDISEED OILS, RAISES LEVY ON CASTOR OIL

An export duty of 250 rupees per long ton (2.3 cents per pound) on linseed oil, effective April 11, has been announced by the Government of India. At the same time, a 200-rupee-per-ton (1.8 cents per pound) export duty was levied on nigerseed and kardiseed oils, and the export tax on castor oil was raised to 170 rupees per ton (1.6 cents per pound). The need to check rising domestic prices of these oils was given as the official reason for the changes in export duties.

Considerably lower previous export duties on linseed, nigerseed and kardiseed oils (the linseed duty amounted to only 0.5 cents per pound) had been abolished on May 12, 1954 in an effort to stimulate exports. The duty on castor oil (which at one time was 2.8 cents per pound) had been reduced to 125 rupees per ton (1.2 cents per pound) in January, 1955.

FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND  
EXPECTS INCREASE IN OILSEED PRODUCTION

Oilseed production in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, which in 1955 totaled 104,640 short tons, is expected to increase in 1956 to an estimated 111,700 tons. Expansion is foreseen in all crops except cottonseed. More than half of the production of oilseeds in 1955 was for human consumption.

Crushing aside from locally produced oilseeds were small. And imports of oilseeds were negligible because industries can import oils and whatever oil cakes and meals are needed for livestock feed at less cost than processing them from imported seeds.

FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND: Vegetable  
oilseed and oil production, 1955-56

Crop	(Short tons)				
	Production				
	Oilseed		Oil		
	1955	1956 <u>1/</u>	1955	1956 <u>1/</u>	
Cottonseed.....	10,000	7,000	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	
Peanuts (shelled).....	90,000	99,000	5,000	5,500	
Soybeans..... <u>3/</u>	140	<u>4/</u> 150	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	
Sunflowerseed.....	1,250	1,300	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	
Tung.....	3,250	4,250	1,000	1,500	
Total.....	104,640	111,700	6,000	7,000	

1/ Forecast. 2/ Negligible. 3/ 4,667 bushels. 4/ 5,000 bushels.  
American Consulate General, Salisbury.

Production of vegetable, animal and marine oils and fats totaled 14,750 tons in 1955. The production forecast for 1956 is 16,800 tons. The increase apparently is expected in vegetable oils (largely peanut and tung), and marine oils, as animal fats are not expected to increase.

Tallow imports from Australia and New Zealand in the first 3 months of 1956 were made at lower prices than from the United States, delivered at Salisbury. The discontinuance of an established shipping line out of Australia in August 1956, however, could adversely affect Australian exports of fats and oils to the Federation if a substitute line does not take over this business. It is reported that a Dutch shipping company will introduce a new service between Australia and South and East Africa in July or August.

Palm oil from the Belgian Congo can be substituted for prime tallow when the price is competitive. As of the end of March, palm oil from the Belgian Congo was 12-13 Rhodesian pounds (\$34-36) per ton higher than prime American tallow, basis Salisbury plants.

The plant at Ndola, however, uses Belgian Congo palm oil because of savings in transportation. Oil plants in Salisbury have requested bulk unloading facilities for oils at either Beira or Lourenco Marques, Mozambique, but as yet no progress is being made toward installing these. Such facilities would lower costs below shipment in 55 gallon drums by about £ 10 (\$28) per ton and could result in sales of additional tallow from American sources after such installation. As of March 21, tallow prices were £ 12 (\$34) cheaper to Salisbury for fancy grade from Australia and £ 13 (\$36) cheaper in two lower grades.

The policy of the Federation is to become self sufficient in those fats and oils in which it is economically feasible. Those which are brought in are imported at the lowest competitive price. Lard supply is about equal to demand, but tallow is imported. Peanuts and a small quantity of margarine, in excess supply, are exported. High-protein feed concentrates (cottonseed, soybean, and linseed meals) are in short supply and production is supplemented by imports.

Exports in 1955 consisted largely of 8,457 tons of peanuts of which 5,616 tons went to the United Kingdom. Major imports were 8,562 tons of oilcake and meal (5,997 tons from the Belgian Congo) and 4,729 tons of tallow (3,333 tons from the United States).

#### BURMA'S PEANUT, SESAME PRODUCTION UP; PEANUT OIL IMPORTS UP, COCONUT OIL DOWN

Peanut production in Burma rose to approximately 229,800 short tons (unshelled) in 1955-56, an increase of about one-third from the 172,500 tons produced in 1954-55, according to official Burmese statistics. Peanut acreage has been expanding and may be expected to continue to expand as part of a drive for self-sufficiency in peanut oil. Peanut oil production increased from 32,000 tons in 1954-55 to 37,700 tons in 1955-56. Most notable, however, was the increase in peanut oil imports from 9,500 tons in 1954-55 to 38,300 tons in 1955-56.

This increase in peanut oil imports, which are under Open General License is due in large part to Burma's removal of coconut oil from Open General License early in 1955. This caused a decline in imports of coconut oil from some 26,800 tons in 1954 to only 2,280 tons during the first 6 months of 1955. In the past coconut oil has been Burma's main imported oil and although the Government has in recent years sought to increase coconut production, it will be several years before the results of this effort will be seen. Therefore, in the meantime Burma will be dependent on foreign imports for whatever coconut oil it consumes. At present there is practically no domestic production so consumption approximates the import volume.

Sesame production totaled approximately 49,400 tons in 1955-56 a marked increase from the 40,600 tons produced in the 1954-55 season. Production of sesame oil rose to 17,200 short tons in 1955-56, almost 15 percent more than the 15,000 tons produced in 1954-55.



Burma exports no oilseeds or cooking oils, but does export oil cakes, largely to the United Kingdom, Malaya and various European countries. These exports have risen sharply in the last few years from about 24,900 tons in 1950-51 to 78,400 tons in 1954-55, and an estimated 84,000 tons in 1955-56. In 1954 exports were made up largely of peanut cake, with smaller quantities of cottonseed and sesame cake.

As was mentioned above coconut oil has been the main imported oil, but these imports fell off sharply in 1955. Practically all of this oil has been coming from Malaya. Burma also imports from Malaya most of its coconuts, but these are used mainly for their meat rather than oil. In January-June of 1955, more than 5 million nuts had been imported, as compared with over 8.5 million in the 12 months of 1954.

Small quantities of linseed oil (from India and the United Kingdom), palm oil (Malaya), and castor oil (India, United Kingdom and France) were also imported, but none of these is used for edible purposes in Burma.

#### PHILIPPINE COPRA, COCONUT OIL EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

Philippine exports of both copra and coconut oil climbed sharply in March. Equivalent in terms of copra to 86,912 long tons, the volume reflected a gain of 17 percent from a month earlier, and 60 percent from March 1955. This sharp increase brought cumulative shipments of copra and coconut oil in the January-March quarter to 260,219 tons copra equivalent nearly one-third more than the 197,516 tons in the first quarter of 1955.

Copra exports in March, totaling 71,058 tons, again--as in recent months--went predominantly to Europe. By destination and quantity, they were as follows: United States (Pacific Coast)- 17,733 tons; Colombia- 5,000; Denmark- 5,350; Western Germany- 1,000; the Netherlands- 23,450; Western Germany and the Netherlands (destination breakdown not available)- 7,325; Norway- 1,000; Sweden- 1,500; Europe unspecified; 7,000; Israel- 1,200; and Lebanon- 500 tons. January-March exports at 221,067 tons were up one-fourth from the 173,545 tons exported in the comparable period of 1955.

Coconut oil exports last month totaled 9,988 tons. Shipments were as follows: United States (Atlantic)- 6,696 tons; the Netherlands- 1,295; and Western Germany- 657 tons.

Unlike world prices for edible "soft" vegetable oils, those for copra and coconut oil have held at fairly stable levels in recent months. The copra export price in mid-April was \$157.50 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast (mid-February \$145; mid-December \$145; and mid-October \$152.50). Local buying prices were reported at 24.25 to 27.50 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$123.20 to \$139.71 per long tons) resecada, Manila and producing areas.

